

COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION

Use: 5 KILOMETER SHERBURNE WILDLIFE FESTIVAL RUN/WALK

Refuge Name: Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge

Establishing and Acquisition Authorities: Migratory Bird Conservation Act 16 U.S.C. 5 715d

Refuge Purpose(s):

"... for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds." 16 U.S.C. 5 715d (Migratory Bird Conservation Act)

- Strive to maintain diversity and increase abundance of waterfowl and other migratory bird species dependent on prairie wetland and grassland habitats.
- Conserve, manage, and restore the diversity and viability of native fish, wildlife and plant populations associated with oak savanna, tall-grass prairie, and wetland habitats.
- Work in partnership with others to restore or enhance native oak savanna, tall-grass prairie, and wetland habitats unique plant communities.
- Restore, enhance, and protect water quality and quantity that approaches natural hydrologic functions.

National Wildlife Refuge System Mission: "To administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans."

Description of Use:

What is the use? A 5 Kilometer run/walk

Where is the use conducted? The 5K run/walk will be conducted on Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge along the School House road located south of the Old School House/EE classroom site. The School House road is a service road that is open to the public for foot travel during non-sanctuary times (September 1st – March 1st). The event will take place along this route proceeding 2.5 kilometers south, turn around and return the last 2.5 kilometers to the original starting point.

When is the use conducted? This event will be held each October as a kick-off event to National Wildlife Refuge Week – the second week of October. It is just one event of the Refuge's annual Wildlife Festival.

How is the use conducted? The 5K run/walk is sponsored and managed by the Friends of Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge. It is just one of many activities held during the event. Participants are checked in at the event site south of the Old School house. An EMT is present and available to monitor participants during the event. After the participants have completed, they will be provided environmental educational opportunities at the Wildlife Festival.

Why is the use being proposed? There has been a growing concern about the health of our children as well as adults. The way children and adults understand and experience nature has changed radically. The 5K run/walk is an opportunity for participants to experience nature particularly during October when fall colors are evident and the bird migration has begun. It also provides a safe area to exercise and participate in a variety of other environmentally friendly family events scheduled during the day. The Refuge can reach a different segment of the population to enjoy the Refuge and wildlife resources. The run/walk is in conjunction with a variety of other activities held during the annual wildlife festival supporting wildlife-dependent recreation activities of wildlife observation, environmental education and interpretation.

Availability of Resources: The School House road is currently well maintained for service use. The Friends of Sherburne will conduct all activities and provide all necessary funding to administer this activity.

Anticipated Impacts of the Use: This event does not have any adverse effect on Refuge resources, habitat and wildlife.

Public Review and Comment: This compatibility determination will be posted for 14 days at the Refuge Headquarters and any comments will be reviewed.

Determination:

____ Use is not compatible

____ Use is compatible with the following stipulations:

1. The event will be completely managed by the Friends of Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge;
2. An EMT/ambulance will be present and available to monitor participants;
3. The event will be just one of a number of other activities that promote environmental education and interpretation.

Justification:

Signature: Refuge Manager _____

(Signature and Date)

Concurrence: Regional Chief: _____

(Signature and Date)

Mandatory 10 or 15 year Re-evaluation Date: 2023

2013 Proposed 5K Run/Walk

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge



